

Applicants: Rodrigues et al.
Serial No.: 10/738,387
Filing Date: December 17, 2003
Docket No.: 577-760 RCE
Page 6

REMARKS

The application has been amended. Claims 1, 11 and 17 have been amended. Entry of this amendment and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Independent claim 1 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,632,651 to Szegda. This determination is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites a connector for terminating a coaxial cable. The connector includes a generally cylindrical connector body and a generally cylindrical locking sleeve coupled to the connector body. The locking sleeve includes at least one protrusion formed thereon which partially encircles the locking sleeve to an extent where the partial encirclement is less than the full circumference of the locking sleeve. As shown in a preferred embodiment of the present invention in Figure 1, this results in a plurality of spaced apart protrusions 54 extending in a radially spaced fashion about the locking sleeve.

The Szegda reference employs a connector body and a locking sleeve. The locking sleeve includes a fully circumferential annular protrusion formed thereon. The annular protrusion is received in the groove of the connector body. As it relates to claim 1 of the present invention, Szegda fails to show, in any respect, a locking sleeve having at least one protrusion

Applicants: Rodrigues et al.
Serial No.: 10/738,387
Filing Date: December 17, 2003
Docket No.: 577-760 RCE
Page 7

formed thereon partially encircling less than the full circumference of the locking sleeve. As such, as a matter of law, Szegda cannot be anticipatory of claim 1.

Furthermore, as Szegda discloses only a fully circumferential rib about the locking sleeve, Szegda fails in any respect to teach or suggest the use of a protrusion which partially encircles less than the full circumference of the locking sleeve. The benefits of providing at least one protrusion which partially encircles less than the full circumference of the locking sleeve is described in the specification at page 7, lines 4-18. Accordingly, as Szegda fails to disclose, teach or suggest a protrusion which encircles less than the full circumference of the locking sleeve, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1, and the claims which depend therefrom, are patentably distinct thereover.

Claim 11 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Szegda. This determination is respectfully traversed.

Claim 11 recites a connector including a connector body having an annular detent disposed therein and a locking sleeve where the locking sleeve includes a plurality of protrusions spaced circumferentially and evenly formed thereon. As noted above, Szegda fails to disclose such an arrangement of spaced circumferentially, evenly formed protrusions. Moreover, Szegda fails to suggest such arrangement. Accordingly, for the reasons set forth above with

Applicants: Rodrigues et al.
Serial No.: 10/738,387
Filing Date: December 17, 2003
Docket No.: 577-760 RCE
Page 8

respect to claim 1, claim 11 and the claims which depend therefrom are believed to be patentably distinct over Szegda.

Independent claim 17 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Szegda. This determination is respectfully traversed.

Claim 17 recites a connector for terminating a coaxial cable. The connector includes a connector body having a cable receiving end and a projection disposed therein. A locking sleeve is provided which is insertably received in the cable receiving end of the connector body. The locking sleeve has a smooth annular portion and a groove formed therein. The projection of the connector body slides along the smooth annular portion and is received in the groove when the coaxial cable is terminated in the connector body.

Claim 17 has been amended to clearly recite that the connector body has a cable receiving end and that the locking sleeve is insertably received in the cable receiving end of the connector body. It is the connector body which includes the projection and the locking sleeve which includes a groove which receives the projection of the connector body. Szegda does not employ a projection on the connector body. In Szegda, it is the connector body itself which includes a groove for receiving annular rings disposed on the locking sleeve.

Applicants: Rodrigues et al.
Serial No.: 10/738,387
Filing Date: December 17, 2003
Docket No.: 577-760 RCE
Page 9

In that regard, claim 17 clearly defines that the connector body is the component which has a cable receiving end and which also receives the locking sleeve in the cable receiving end thereof. Therefore, the Examiner can only read the connector body of claim 17 on connector body 22 of the Szegda reference and the locking sleeve 26 of Szegda on the locking sleeve of the presently claimed invention. Such a reading is required inasmuch as the claim requires the connector body to receive the locking sleeve in the cable receiving end thereof. Reading the Szegda reference in this manner, Szegda fails to disclose a connector body having a projection disposed therein. Szegda clearly and solely discloses the use of a groove on the connector and annular rings on the locking sleeve which are successively received in the groove.

The present invention, employs a projection on the connector body which is received in the groove of the locking sleeve. The benefits of this particular arrangement are set forth in the present specification at page 9, lines 1-9. As noted, the present invention provides a particular advantage in that there is no protrusion or rib on the outer surface of the locking sleeve that must be compressed when the locking sleeve is secured to the connector body. This arrangement reduces the axial compressive forces needed to terminate the locking sleeve. The Szegda reference fails to disclose this arrangement and also fails to achieve the benefit provided thereby. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 17 is patentably distinct over Szegda.

Applicants: Rodrigues et al.
Serial No.: 10/738,387
Filing Date: December 17, 2003
Docket No.: 577-760 RCE
Page 10

The Examiner has rejected independent claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Szegda in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,967,852 to Follingstad et al. (hereinafter "Follingstad"). In this rejection, the Examiner acknowledges that Szegda fails to show the protrusions being spaced radially and evenly. The Examiner contends that Follingstad shows such an arrangement.

Follingstad reference, as set forth in column 3, lines 60 through 63, shows an arrangement where "a connector body 23 preferably includes releasable latching structure 25 for selectively latching connector 20 to reciprocal structure. An example reciprocal structure is connector body 223 of connector 200 shown in Figs. 11-13. While a plurality of detents may be shown on component 20 of Follingstad reference, there is no disclosure whatsoever as to what structure these detents couple to.

Claim 11 clearly recites that the connector body includes an annular detent where the protrusions on the locking sleeve are received in the detent. There is no clear disclosure in Follingstad that protrusions 25 are received in an annular detent. Furthermore, there is no suggestion in Follingstad that such an arrangement could be provided. In fact, since the detents are referred to as latching structures it is most probable that detents in Follingstad are received in discrete openings which provide for latching therein. This is in counter distinction to the annular detent of the connector body recited in claim 11.

Applicants: Rodrigues et al.
Serial No.: 10/738,387
Filing Date: December 17, 2003
Docket No.: 577-760 RCE
Page 11

Furthermore, even if combined with Szegda, the combination fails to disclose, teach or suggest a plurality of protrusions in the locking sleeve which are insertably received within an annular detent on a connector body. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 11 is patentably distinct over the cited combination.

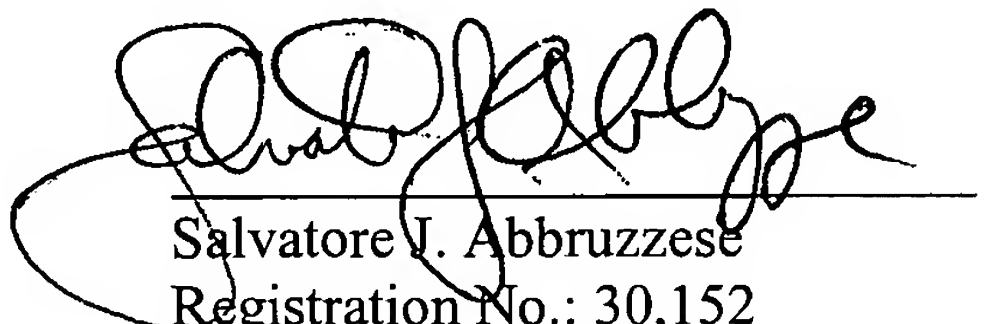
Having responded in full to the present Office Action, it is respectfully submitted that the application including claims 1-20 is in condition for allowance. Favorable action thereon is respectfully solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional fees associated with this communication, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 20-0776. Such authorization includes authorization to charge fees for extensions of time, if any, under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 and also should be treated as a constructive petition for an extension of time in this reply or any future reply pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136.

Applicants: Rodrigues et al.
Serial No.: 10/738,387
Filing Date: December 17, 2003
Docket No.: 577-760 RCE
Page 12

Should the Examiner wish to discuss this application in further detail, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney by telephone at (973) 331-1700.

Respectfully submitted,



Salvatore J. Abbruzzese
Registration No.: 30,152
Attorney for Applicant(s)

HOFFMANN & BARON, LLP
6900 Jericho Turnpike
Syosset, New York 11791
(973) 331-1700